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APR 08 2008

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/542,046
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

PATENT
NON-FINAL

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) In a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery using a material capable of storing and releasing lithium as a negative electrode material and a lithium transition metal complex oxide containing Ni and Mn as the transition metal and having a layered structure as a positive electrode material,

said secondary battery being characterized in that said lithium transition metal complex oxide has a BET specific surface area of less than 3 m²/g and gives a pH value within the range of ~~9.0 - 11.0~~ 10.61 - 11.0 when it is immersed in purified water in the amount of 5 g per 50 ml of the purified water, and that an outer casing of said battery is composed at least partly of an aluminum alloy or aluminum laminate film having a thickness of up to 0.5 mm and susceptible to deformation in case of internal pressure buildup due to gas generation within the battery during storage.

2 - 4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery as recited in claim 1, characterized in that said lithium transition metal complex oxide is represented by the formula

$\text{Li}_a\text{Mn}_x\text{Ni}_y\text{Co}_z\text{O}_2$ (wherein a , x , y and z are numbers satisfying $0 \leq a \leq 1.2$, $x + y + z = 1$, $x > 0$, $y > 0$ and $z \geq 0$).

6. (previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery as recited in claim 1, characterized in that said lithium transition metal complex oxide contains substantially the same amount of nickel and manganese.

7. (previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery as recited in claim 1, characterized in that said lithium transition metal complex oxide has a BET specific surface area of not greater than $2 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

8. (previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery as recited in claim 5, characterized in that said lithium transition metal complex oxide contains substantially the same amount of nickel and manganese.

9. (previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery as recited in claim 5, characterized in that said lithium transition metal complex oxide has a BET specific surface area of not greater than $2 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

10. (previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery as recited in claim 6, characterized in that said lithium transition metal complex oxide has a BET specific surface area of not greater than $2 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

11. (previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery as recited in claim 8, characterized in that said lithium transition metal complex oxide has a BET specific surface area of not greater than $2 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.